(c) The details of the said items imported during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 indicating the dates, quantities thereof (country-wise) are given in the followig Annexures.

(i) Quantity of import country-wise & item-wise during 1996-97 Annexure - I
[*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. *107*]

(ii) Value of import country-wise & item-wise during 1996-97 Annexure - II
[*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. *108*]

(iii) Quantity of import country-wise & item-wise during April-Dec. 1997 Annexure - III
[*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. *109*],

(iv) Value of import country-wise & item-wise during April-Dec. 1997 Annexure - IV
[*See* Appendix 184 Annexure No. *110*]

United Nations Annual Steel Review

4404. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the united Nations Annual Steel Review which said — "Assam crisis curbs capacity benefits world steel" as reported in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi Edition, dated 4th July, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel Industry has been facing weakening emand with declining prices since 1996 and many ambitious projects postponed indefinitely in 1997; and

(c) if so, details of such delayed/postponed Indian projects and steps taken so far to face the crisis and remove the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government is aware of a news item reported in New Delhi edition of the Economic Times dated 4.7.98 on "Asian crisis curbs capacity; benefits world steel".

(b) and (c) The Indian Steel Industry has also been effected by the general slowdown of the economy and has been facing reduced growth in demand, stagnant prices and lower profitability for the last two years. However, Government is not aware of postponment of many ambitious projects on these accounts alone. Investment decisions in the steel industry are based on long term considerations.

Government have initiated several measures to stimulate demand for steel which include:

(i) Enhanced allocation for infrastructure development housing, power, high-ways proposed in the Budget for 1998-99.

(ii) Launch of a National Compaign to increase the consumption of steel particularly in Rural and Agro Based Industrial sectors.

(iii) Constitution of a Steel Exporters Forum to boost exports of steel.

Performance of NALCO

4405. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) in the production of Alumina and Aluminium in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the number of projects are being currently implemented by NALCO;

(c) the estimated production expected after the completion of the projects; and

(d) the year by which these projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES(SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Production of Alumina and Aluminium by NALCO in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:—

Unit/Tonnes

Item	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Alumina	807130	840062	883300
Aluminium	192288	203823	200162

(b) to (d) The details of projects under implementation by NALCO estimated production after their completion and the time by which they are expected to be completed is given in the Statement. (*See below*).

Statement

S. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Production after completion of project (including existing capacity)	Year Completion
1.	Expansion of bauxite mines.	4800000 TPA	Dec., 1999
2.	Expansion of alumina refinery	1575000 TPA	Mar., 2001
3.	Expansion of smelter plant.	345000 TPA	May., 2002
4.	Expansion of captive power plant	7 x 120 MWH	May., 2002
5.	Strip Casting facility	26000 TPA	July., 1998
6.	Special grade alumina	20000 TPA	Aug., 1999
7.	Detergent grade zeolite.	10000 TPA	June., 1999
8.	Cast Wheel project.	10000 TPA INGOT 450000 NOS. WHEELS/YEAR	27 Months*

* 27 months from the date of technology finalisation for which negotiation is going on.

Quota system for distribution of Steel

4406. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any quota system for distribution of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of quota allotted to each State of North-East region; and

(c) whether there is any concession for lifting the steel in the North-East States where there is no Railway head in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) after the decontrol of steel in 1992, there is no quota system for distribution of steel in the country except for 5 priority sectors vis: Defence, Railways, North East Region Exporters of Engg. Goods and the Small Scale Industries Corporation (SSICS) of individual States for catering to the needs of SSI units in the States. To these designated priority sectors the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel makes quarterly allocation of steel materials.

(b) As per the demand projected by the Nodal authorities of States/SSICs of the North Eastern Region States, a supply plan/allocation is made by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel. Supply plan/Allocation made during 1997-98 is enclosed as statement *See* below).

(c) There is no concession other than the rebate that is provided to State Small Scale Industries Corporations on lifting of steel against the allocation of BCI&S. At present the rate of rebate in respect of the North Eastern States is Rs. 550/- per tonne.

Statement

Supply Plan/Allocation in Favour of Nodal Authorities for 1997-98

Name of the Nodal authority/SSIC	1997-98		
	Demand	Supply	Plan/Allocation
Assam	18081		15072
Arunachal Pradesh	-		-
Meghalaya	14150		14150
Manipur	16209		16209
Mizoram	-		-
Tripura	7100		7100
Nagaland	150		170

No demand was placed in respect of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram Nodal Authorities/SSIC during 1997-98.